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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS:	Frank G. Belmonte et al.	)	PATENT APPLICATION
		)	
APPLICATION NO.:	10/713,660	)	Group Art Unit: 1625
CONFIRMATION NO.:	9847	)	
FILED:	November 14, 2003	)	Examiner:
		)	Taylor V. Oh
FOR:	STAGED COUNTERCURRENT	)	Attorney Docket No.:
	OXIDATION	)	37,481

Amendment in Response to Final Office Action Filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

The Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and remarks in order to place the above-referenced case in a condition for allowance.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks and Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.